IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 15-18 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19, 20, and 22-24, and add new Claims 25-29, to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A process for decreasing the concentration ~~amount~~ of cholesterol in a ~~mixture comprising a~~ marine oil~~, the marine oil~~ containing ~~the~~ cholesterol in free form, characterized in that the process comprises the steps of[[;]]

a) adding ~~adding~~ a volatile working fluid to the marine oil, wherein ~~mixture, where~~ the volatile working fluid comprises at least one member of the group consisting of [[a]] fatty acid esters, ~~ester, a~~ fatty acid amides ~~amide~~ and hydrocarbons ~~a hydrocarbon~~, and

b) subjecting ~~subjecting~~ the mixture of marine oil and ~~with the added~~ volatile working fluid to at least one stripping processing step, in which an amount of the cholesterol present in the marine oil in free form is separated from the mixture together with the volatile working fluid.

2. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the volatile working fluid is essentially equally or less volatile than the cholesterol in free form that is to be separated from the marine oil mixture.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the fatty acid moieties ~~said at least one~~ of said [[a]] fatty acid esters ~~ester~~ and [[a]] fatty acid amides are ~~amide constituting said volatile working fluid is~~ obtained from a fat or oil

selected from the group consisting ~~at least one~~ of [[a]] vegetable, microbial and animal fats and oils ~~fat or oil~~.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 3, wherein the animal fat or oil is a marine oil.

5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the volatile working fluid comprises at least one fatty acid ester composed of a C10-C22 fatty acid esterified with a ~~acids and~~ C1-C4 alcohol ~~alcohols, or a combination of two or more fatty acid ester each composed of C10-C22 fatty acids and C1-C4 alcohols~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the marine oil contains ~~containing~~ saturated and unsaturated fatty acids in the form of triglycerides, and the marine oil is obtained from fish or sea mammals.

7. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of (volatile working fluid) : (marine oil) is about 1:100 to 15:100.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 7, wherein the ratio of (volatile working fluid): (marine oil) is about 3:100 10 to 8:100.

9. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein said stripping processing step is carried out at temperatures in the range ~~interval~~ of 120-270°C.

10. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein said stripping processing step is carried out at temperatures in the range ~~interval~~ of 150-220°C.

11. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein said stripping processing step is carried out at a pressure below 1 mbar.

12. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the at least one stripping processing step is one of a thin-film evaporation process, a molecular distillation or a short-path distillation or any combination thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 12, wherein the ~~at least one~~ thin-film evaporation process is carried out at a mixture flow rate in the range ~~interval~~ of 30-150 kg/h·m^2.

14. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein said stripping processing step is carried out ~~effectively~~ at a mixture flow rate in the range ~~interval~~ of 80-150 kg/h·m^2.

Claims 15-18 (Cancelled).

19. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 ~~volatile cholesterol decreasing working fluid~~, wherein the volatile working fluid is a ~~by-product, such as a~~ distillate fraction ~~fraction,~~ from a ~~regular~~ process in which a mixture comprising ~~for production of~~ ethyl and/or methyl esters of fatty acids from marine oil is fractionated by distillation ~~concentrates~~.

20. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1 wherein the marine oil also contains cholesterol in bound form, and wherein the stripping processing step is followed by the steps ~~of:~~ of

c) subjecting ~~- subjecting~~ the stripped marine oil ~~mixture~~ to at least one trans-esterification reaction with a C_1-C_6 alcohol under substantially anhydrous conditions, and thereafter

d) subjecting ~~- subjecting~~ the transesterified marine oil from step c ~~product obtained in the step above~~ to at least one distillation procedure that yields ~~or more distillations, preferably one or more molecular distillations, to achieve~~ a distillate marine oil fraction and a residue marine oil fraction, and in which the distillate marine oil fraction has ~~with reduced~~ concentrations of both free and bound cholesterol that are lower than ~~from which product an amount of cholesterol in bound form has been separated~~ in the residue fraction.

21. (Original) A process according to claim 20, wherein said C_1-C_6 alcohol is ethanol.

22. (Currently Amended) A health supplement composition that comprises~~, containing at least~~ a lowered-cholesterol-content marine oil~~, which marine oil is~~ prepared according to the process of ~~presented in~~ claim 1 ~~or 20, in order to decrease a total amount of cholesterol in the marine oil~~.

23. (Currently Amended) A health supplement composition according to claim 22, wherein said marine oil is fish oil.

24. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition that comprises~~, containing at least~~ a lowered-cholesterol-content marine oil~~, which marine oil is~~ prepared according to the process of ~~presented in~~ claim 1 ~~or 20, in order to decrease a total amount of cholesterol in the marine oil~~.

25. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 24, wherein said marine oil is fish oil.

26. (New) A health supplement composition that comprises a lowered-cholesterol-content marine oil prepared according to the process of claim 20.

27. (New) A health supplement composition according to claim 26, wherein said marine oil is fish oil.

28. (New) A pharmaceutical composition that comprises a lowered-cholesterol-content marine oil prepared according to the process of claim 20.

29. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 28, wherein said marine oil is fish oil.